

A LETTER FROM IRAQ

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, from a second lieutenant platoon leader in Iraq: "If you watch the news, you know that the greater Baghdad area is in turmoil. We are on the outskirts of the city, controlling the rural area between Baghdad, Ramadi and Fallujah. We believe the area became hostile when terrorist cells fled here during the coalition invasion of the urban areas.

"Now our task is to control this area and give the enemy no safe haven. We are spread thin, but we are getting the job down. The television highlights every explosion and loss of life. But you miss what we do. You miss my soldiers giving water and food to local nationals. You miss my soldiers giving the little kids high-fives and soccer balls. You miss my soldiers replacing sewer systems and rebuilding roads. You miss my medic treating the locals for injuries.

"The news shows death, murder and violence, but daily I see smiles, hard work and hope. Is the area in turmoil? Yes. Is it lost? No, and every day American soldiers bring hope to these people. You won't see it in the morning paper or the evening news, but I am telling you it is here. I know it. I am seeing it, and I am doing it.

"I miss everyone and look forward to coming home. Know that your Army is making you proud to be an American. God bless America."

However, we spend our new found time planning and running missions into unoccupied territory, looking to bring the fight to an enemy who likes to stay hidden. I like the new tempo, because its aggressive and suits the guy's personality much more than a defensive campaign. I am positive that my guys would choose to air assault onto a hostile objective before they would want to defend a quiet base. They are good at their jobs, and love being challenged under pressure.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow my Texas colleague, in fact my neighbor in the Houston area, and say the House is spending more time today on this horse bill than we are on homeland security, and we need to deal with that. We need to protect our borders, ports and airports.

If you don't like the bill, I am a co-sponsor of it, you can just vote "nay."

Mr. Speaker, the reason I am here today is because I recently learned that the U.S. Department of Education failed to award the LULAC National Education Service Centers a grant under the Talent Search Program.

The LULAC Talent Search program has been one of the largest talent search grantees since it was first awarded in 1979. This program serves over 12,000 students in some of the country's most disadvantaged areas. These cuts will severely impact the Hispanic community that I represent.

In my Houston area, the local LULAC Council 402 has been an integral part of serving students in our area for years. Just last year, LULAC Council 402 served students in our area and they raised \$32,000 separately to match the Federal funds. This program nationwide serves thousands and serves our Nation, and now the Department of Education has decided to turn out the lights on these centers. I hope someone in the Department of Education is listening.

SECRETARY RUMSFELD SERVES NATION WITH DIGNITY AND HONOR

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong objection to the blatant partisan move of the Senate Democrats and their partisan agenda to force a vote of no confidence in Donald Rumsfeld. It is transparent that the Democrats are making this a political issue and hope to polarize the American people and their views on the war on terror. They are attempting to overshadow and downplay our successes in Iraq and the Republican agenda for winning the war on terror.

A difference of opinion should not equal a vote of no confidence. In our democracy, there will always be room for debate and disagreement, but political posturing and defamation of character have no place in a civilized debate.

Secretary Rumsfeld has worked tirelessly with Iraqi government officials and its military to bring freedom and democracy to a formerly tyrannical regime while fighting against terrorists and insurgents who threaten Iraqis and Americans stationed there.

Mr. Speaker, I stand firm in my resolve to ensure victory not only in Iraq but also in the global war on terror. Secretary Rumsfeld is serving our Nation with dignity and honor and should be treated as such whether you agree with his actions or not.

STRUGGLING FAMILIES

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the struggle of American working families. The Census Bureau reported that American families are living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to make ends meet and going deeper into debt, even as they are

working harder and are more productive.

Housing costs and interest rates are skyrocketing. The income of American families continues to stagnate even as health care, energy and college costs keep going up. The number of Americans without health insurance has risen by 16 percent to 46 million people, equal to the population of 24 States and the District of Columbia.

This includes more than one-third of my constituents in east Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley, not to mention the 5 million more Americans living in poverty under this administration.

We need a new direction to help America's working families achieve the American dream, not more tax breaks for the wealthy oil corporations. I urge my colleagues to please reject the failed economic policies of the Republican Congress and instead honor hard work, fair wages and economic growth.

WINNING THE WAR ON TERRORISM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, while traveling by bus through the 10 counties of South Carolina's Second Congressional District last month, I spoke with constituents about the resolve of America for victory in the global war on terrorism. I repeatedly heard that we must maintain our resolve for winning this war to protect American families.

As several recent successes prove, we are winning the war on terrorism. Nine men suspected of plotting a terrorist attack in Denmark have been arrested. British police detained 14 people suspected of operating terrorist training camps. Iraqi authorities arrested the number two al Qaeda murderer in Iraq. U.S. and British authorities stopped a plot to target U.S.-bound airplanes. Germany and India foiled terrorist attacks in their homelands.

Countries that were reluctant to join with us in the war on terrorism are learning they cannot escape its effects. This is not just a war against America; this is a war against all freedom-loving nations.

With four sons in the military, I am grateful for the dedication of American servicemembers symbolized by the heroism of Cpl David Weimortz of Irmo.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

PROBLEMS IN AMERICA

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans went home for a month and listened to people and watched the decimation of Lebanon. They watched the continuing mess in Iraq. The President cancelled the return of 13,000 people, or Mr. Rumsfeld did, and they are

keeping them in Baghdad because the place is in a shambles.

But what do we do when we come back, the first week we are back? Do we discuss those issues, or do we discuss the slaughter of human beings?

No, we are here to deal with horse slaughter. When I was in my district, I don't remember in the 18 years that I have been in my district that I have heard anybody come and say, why don't you stop the slaughter of horses?

What is the matter with the Republican Party? Have you nothing to do? Can't you pass anything on port security? Can't you pass anything on immigration? Can't you pass anything about helping the President get out of Iraq? Or about the economy? Gasoline is \$3 a gallon. You cut the Pell Grants, and you come out worrying about the slaughter of horses. I vote "nay."

BORDER PROTECTION AND SECURITY NOW

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, during the August recess, my constituents saw very clearly the need to increase enforcement along our borders. In early August, an illegal immigrant wanted for murder in Texas was found working in a lumberyard near Elkins, West Virginia.

Last week, another illegal immigrant struck and killed 4-year-old Tyler Evans in a car accident in Boone County, West Virginia. The police report alleges that speed and alcohol were factors in the fatal crash. Both illegal immigrants had falsified immigration papers.

I held a roundtable with law enforcement officers and elected leaders and talked with many constituents throughout August to discuss the House border security bill and the Reid-Kennedy amnesty bill. The response was unanimous: No amnesty and increased enforcement along our borders.

We shouldn't stop there. It is critical that we provide employers the ability to check immigration status of employees and hold them accountable for their workers. Clearly, most people who enter illegally are not security threats, but it is critical to our homeland security that we are able to account for the people who enter this country. We need to pass tough immigration reform now. It is too late for Tyler Evans, but we need to act before it is too late for other Americans.

PEOPLE PROTECTION

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, nothing could illustrate more that this Republican Congress is a do-nothing Congress

than the fact that, on the first full day back, the only thing we are dealing with is the Horse Protection Act. The previous speaker on the Republican side talked about immigration reform. When I was back in my district, people wanted to know when this Congress was going to address immigration reform, when we were going to address port security and the rising number of people that have no health insurance. But we not dealing with those issues today, we are dealing with the Horse Protection Act. What about people protection?

Osama bin Laden is still at large. The 9/11 Commission recommendations have not been implemented by this Congress. What about a people or American protection act?

The previous speaker talked about immigration reform. This Republican Congress is not even addressing immigration reform. They have decided they are not going to deal with the issue between now and the end of this congressional session. It is a disgrace. This Republican Congress is doing nothing. It is the biggest do-nothing Congress that we have ever seen. We come here to talk about horse protection. We have been out for 6 weeks. The American people want more.

□ 1015

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 503, AMERICAN HORSE SLAUGHTER PREVENTION ACT

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 981 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 981

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 503) to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour and twenty minutes equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question

in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the rule provides 1 hour and 20 minutes of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader. The rule also provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Horse meat is generally not consumed by people in the United States, but more than approximately 90,000 were slaughtered for human consumption in 2005. Virtually all of those horses were slaughtered for export and sent to the largest markets for that product, to countries such as France and Belgium, where it is commonly served to humans. Another 30,000 were transported from the United States to Canada and Mexico for slaughter. A number of States currently have laws that prohibit slaughter or facilitating the slaughter of horses for human consumption, but there is not a nationwide ban.

Last year during consideration of the fiscal 2006 agriculture appropriations bill, my good friends, distinguished Members Mr. SWEENEY and Mr. WHITFIELD, offered an amendment to that bill that would have prohibited the expenditure of taxpayer dollars for slaughter plant and horse meat inspections, effectively ending the practice. The amendment passed the House with bipartisan support by a strong 269-158 vote. A similar amendment also passed the Senate. However, horse slaughter plants petitioned the USDA to allow fee-for-service inspections whereby the plants pay for the inspections. The USDA granted the request. To get around the limitation amendment, horse slaughter plants made that petition to the USDA to allow for inspections.

The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act would prohibit an individual from slaughtering a horse for human consumption in the United States and would also prevent the transportation of horses from the